

City Council Brief

Weekly Update from the City Manager

January 7, 2007

SELECTED CITYWIDE PROJECT UPDATE

REPORTED CENSUS NUMBER FOR NORFOLK MISSES MAJOR POPULATIONS... The population numbers reported in Monday's Virginian-Pilot (January 1, 2007) referenced the Census Bureau's 2005 American Community Survey, which does not currently survey group quarters. The Census Bureau actually reported Norfolk as having 231,954 residents in 2005, not 206,172 as reported in the Pilot. The other 25,782 persons reside in military and other group quarters. These group quarters include: military quarters on base, ships out to sea, college dormitories, nursing homes, and jails.



The population number that the City uses as its official estimate is 235,500, which is the provisional population estimate produced by the Weldon Cooper Center at the University of Virginia in 2005. A new 2006 population estimate will be provided by Weldon Cooper at the end of January.

The Virginian Pilot was requested by both the Administration and the Mayor's Office to revise their graphic to show that the 206,172 is an adjusted population figure. The responsible editor at the Pilot also has been requested to provide more prominent annotations to clarify the misleading figures. The editor has agreed to revise the graphic. Norfolk has previously contested Census Bureau population figures based on formulas, not actual counts and proved to be correct when actual counts were made.

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**NORFOLK'S 2006 CRIME DATA...** Preliminary year-end crime statistics for the City is attached to this week's Brief. The information is based on the Uniformed Crime Report which is a collection of offense information for murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. These are Part I offenses and are serious crimes by nature and/or volume. Not all crimes, such as embezzlement, are readily brought to the attention of the police. Also, some serious crimes, such as kidnapping, occur infrequently. Therefore, the UCR Program limits the reporting of offenses known to the eight selected crime classifications because they are the crimes most likely to be reported and most likely to occur with sufficient frequency to provide an adequate basis for comparison.

Key crime statistics for 2006 include:

- There were 28 murders in 2006, which was down 53% from 60 in 2005
- There were 94 forcible rapes in 2006, which was an increase of 8% from the 87 reported in 2005
- There were 884 reported robberies (business and individual) in 2006, which was a 17% increase over the 758 robberies reported in 2005.
- There were 669 reported aggravated assaults in 2006, which was down 14% from the 781 aggravated assaults reported in 2005.

Overall total violent crime decreased in 2006 by 1% from 2005. Additionally, reported property crime in the City which includes burglary, larceny and stolen vehicles decreased by 10% in 2006.



**FCC ADOPTS RESTRICTIVE CABLE FRANCHISING RULES...** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted rules that will wipe out a significant portion of local authority in granting cable television franchises. The FCC has issued a ruling that sets a number of restrictions on cities and towns in granting franchises. The major immediate impact will be on negotiations between local governments and Verizon Communications (and other telephone companies) as they deploy cable TV throughout the state.



The FCC in a December 20<sup>th</sup> press release stated that the ruling will limit local authority in the following areas:

- The length of time a city or town may take to negotiate a cable franchise with a telephone company will be shortened. The Washington Post reported that franchise negotiations will be limited to 90 days.
- Build-out requirements will be limited.
- Fees that companies pay in addition to the permitted 5 percent of gross revenue will likely be cut off. Those fees will be a part of the 5 percent cap.
- The new applicant may not be required to offer the public access, governmental or educational channel (PEG) array that incumbent cable companies now provide. The same is true for the institutional networks (I-Nets) that cable companies have agreed to provide.
- Preempts local regulations that currently help guarantee a level-playing field.

Staff is reviewing the FCC's ruling and its impacts on the City regulatory authority. Once the full impacts are known, City Council will be briefed on this issue.

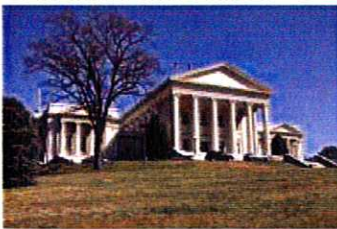
### **SELECT NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS**

**WATERSIDE DRIVE TRAFFIC DETOURS...** As you are aware, the City is undertaking utilities work on Waterside Drive. This work is resulting in the current detours in effect. Driving conditions are being continuously monitored by the Norfolk Police Department and the Division of Transportation staff. Motorists are being informed of the detour through Variable Message Boards located on the interstate at all approaches to the Downtown area. Although Waterside Drive is closed between Martin's Lane and Main Street, motorists still have access to all parking facilities located at Waterside and Otter Berth.

The project's budget is \$350,000 with all work expected to be completed in February.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>...** The state legislature returns to Richmond on Wednesday to begin their 45 day "short session" for 2007. The Administration will provide weekly updates via videoconference during our informal work sessions as well as provide weekly written updates on the key issues.



In addition to our own legislative and funding priorities, some of the top issues this year will include eminent domain reform, transportation funding and related land use reform, real estate tax relief and immigration.



**CONGRESS RETURNS WITH FY07 SPENDING AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS...** Both the House and the



Senate will convened this week marking the start of the 110th Congress. The new leaders have announced their intentions to pass a series of institutional reforms within the first few days of the new session, including new rules for earmarks. The details of the new rules have not been finalized. However, any changes that will make the budget process more transparent and accountable will likely benefit the City. Members of Congress are eager to demonstrate their support for projects and funding for communities in their respective states and districts. The new rules are meant to discourage the practice of allocating federal funds to private corporations or private interests. Many members will welcome the opportunity to have

their names listed next to an earmark that they sponsored in an appropriations bill for a town or county in their district.

As you know, the incoming leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees announced their plans to pass a Joint Resolution that will fund most of the federal government at FY 2006 levels until September 30, 2007. As we mentioned before, it appears that any earmarks that appeared in the FY 2007 House or Senate appropriations bills will not apply in the current fiscal year. We have been in contact with Congressional and agency staff to determine how this will impact individual projects. At this point, everyone is waiting to see the final language of the Joint Resolution.

Staff will maintain contact with our Congressional delegation during this transition period as final decisions about FY 2007 funding are made. Furthermore, we are also preparing for the FY 2008 budget cycle that is scheduled to begin once the President's budget is released on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PRESENTATION SCHEDULED ...** The former three term Mayor of Pittsburg and Senior Urban Land Institute (ULI) Fellow, Tom Murphy, will serve as the keynote speaker of the ULI - Hampton Roads Chapter's breakfast meeting on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. His topic will be "Getting the Biggest Bang for the Buck! Hampton Roads Infrastructure: What's Next?" His remarks will address infrastructure needs of the region and state, the means for addressing deficits and best practices.



Additionally, a roundtable discussion will be moderated by Robert T. Williams, former City Manager of Portsmouth and Newport News as well as President of Tri-Cities Developers. Participants to this panel will include Bobby Bray, Dana Dickens, Ted Henefin and our own Kristen Lentz, Director of Utilities.



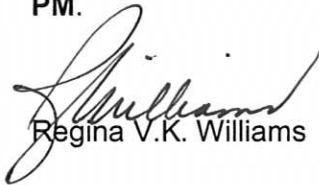
**OPENING CELEBRATION FOR GOSNOLD APARTMENTS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>...** The opening celebration for the Gosnold Apartments is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. As you know, this collaborative project between the communities of Hampton Roads and Virginia Supportive Housing, is the first comprehensive single room occupancy (SRO) facility in the area.

### COUNCIL MEETING REMINDERS

Listed below are the dates and times for January City Council Committees:

| COMMITTEE                                   | DATE                                         |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Economic and Business Development Committee | Canceled with concurrence from Co-Chairs     |
| Health and Human Development (HH&D)         | TBD                                          |
| Strategic Planning and Finance              | Tuesday, January 23 <sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 PM |

The next meeting of City Council is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 9th**. **The joint meeting with the Economic Development Authority (EDA) will begin at 11:15 a.m.** The City Council's **Informal Session** will begin at the normal **noon** time and be followed by the **Formal Council Session** at **2:30 PM**.



Regina V.K. Williams



## 2005 TO 2006 NUMERIC & PERCENT CHANGE

|                                   | 2005         | 2006         | +/-          | %           |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>VIOLENT CRIME:</b>             |              |              |              |             |
| <b>1. MURDER</b>                  | <b>60</b>    | <b>28</b>    | <b>-32</b>   | <b>-53%</b> |
| <b>2. FORCIBLE RAPE</b>           | <b>87</b>    | <b>94</b>    | <b>7</b>     | <b>8%</b>   |
| <b>3. ROBBERY</b>                 | <b>758</b>   | <b>884</b>   | <b>126</b>   | <b>17%</b>  |
| BUSINESS                          | 133          | 147          | 14           | 11%         |
| INDIVIDUAL                        | 625          | 737          | 112          | 18%         |
| <b>4. AGGRAVATED ASSAULT</b>      | <b>781</b>   | <b>669</b>   | <b>-112</b>  | <b>-14%</b> |
| AGG. ASSAULT/AGG. ASSAULT-LEO     | 507          | 430          | -77          | -15%        |
| DOMESTIC                          | 45           | 53           | 8            | 18%         |
| ALL OTHER AGG. ASSAULTS           | 229          | 186          | -43          | -19%        |
| <b>TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME (1-4)</b>  | <b>1686</b>  | <b>1675</b>  | <b>-11</b>   | <b>-1%</b>  |
| <b>PROPERTY CRIME:</b>            |              |              |              |             |
| <b>5. BURGLARY</b>                | <b>1803</b>  | <b>1611</b>  | <b>-192</b>  | <b>-11%</b> |
| COMMERCIAL                        | 462          | 295          | -167         | -36%        |
| NONRESIDENCE                      | 216          | 165          | -51          | -24%        |
| RESIDENCE                         | 1125         | 1151         | 26           | -2%         |
| <b>6. LARCENY</b>                 | <b>10260</b> | <b>9288</b>  | <b>-972</b>  | <b>-9%</b>  |
| FROM/PARTS FROM AUTO              | 5091         | 4442         | -649         | -13%        |
| ALL OTHER LARCENIES               | 5169         | 4846         | -323         | -6%         |
| <b>7. STOLEN VEHICLE</b>          | <b>1154</b>  | <b>1035</b>  | <b>-119</b>  | <b>-10%</b> |
| <b>TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME (5-7)</b> | <b>13217</b> | <b>11934</b> | <b>-1283</b> | <b>-10%</b> |
| <b>8. ARSON</b>                   | <b>44</b>    | <b>78</b>    | <b>34</b>    | <b>77%</b>  |

Prepared by CAU: January 4, 2007